

1 Girls Clubs in communities.

2 I'm reminded that last year the government
3 gave \$100 million to Boys and Girls Clubs nationally
4 to open new clubs. This year another \$30 million, and
5 we are the recipients of that through the efforts of
6 bringing gaming here and the good work that we can do.

7 And I thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Jane.

9 Joe Kelly.

10 MR. KELLY: Madame Chairperson, Commission
11 members, my name is Joe Kelly, and I'm the president
12 of the local Chamber.

13 We have over 450 local business members,
14 and I know that we've heard these numbers a great
15 deal, but they're so compelling that it's worth
16 repeating. Seven billion in taxes, 300 million annual
17 funding for seniors and the disabled, 750 million
18 towards local projects, 50,000 jobs. These are
19 telling and very important economic data, and it's
20 been important for our community to grow.

21 Also, the Chamber -- volunteerism. I
22 don't know that we've talked a great deal about that

1 yet this meeting, and our Chamber is a small Chamber.
2 We simply could not do what we do without the
3 volunteers out of the casinos. They provide
4 leadership. They provide talent, and they're the
5 lifeblood of our volunteer organization.

6 Regarding recommendations, we encourage
7 the Commission to leave the regulation at the local
8 level, at the state level. It's working.

9 You're going to hear reports throughout
10 next week or tomorrow, and you'll see that that is
11 working, and that's important. We think it ought to
12 be left at the local and at the state level.

13 Don't over tax the industry. Over taxing
14 the industry will keep them from doing what they do
15 best, and that's create jobs.

16 I do have two pieces of information I'd
17 like to enter into the record, and I won't take the
18 time this evening. I know we're short, but we have a
19 resolution from the National Conference from
20 Christians and Jews, and it does a very nice job of
21 making their statements on the industry, and it was
22 recently done at an awards program with hundreds of

1 youth in the room, and we'd like to enter that.

2 Also we have an impact study put out by
3 the Atlantic Energy talking about the future
4 development, and so I'll enter both of those.

5 In closing, one of the things that we've
6 seen at the Chamber in the recent weeks is a coming
7 together of labor, coming together of business, coming
8 together of big business, small business, regional
9 groups, local groups.

10 And I attribute part of that to the
11 Commission coming to town. That's appreciated.
12 That's welcomed, and we think the pooling of efforts
13 locally -- and if you've been the catalyst for that,
14 that's a very good thing, and we appreciate that.

15 We also appreciate you taking the bus tour
16 today. We thought that was a good opportunity to
17 truly see the community.

18 We believe that you'll do a good,
19 objective study.

20 Thank you very much. We're proud to be in
21 this city.

22 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.